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DOCKET NO.: SAIT-3915

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Takeki Itoh

Examiner: Lin, Kuang Y.

Serial No.: 10/817,304

Art Unit: 1725

Filed: 04/02/2004

For: FOUNDRY AND PLANT LAYOUT METHOD FOR IT

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

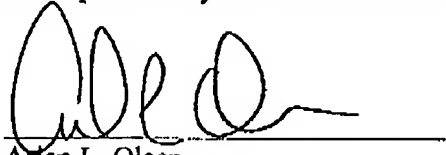
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated May 25, 2005, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-3, drawn to a foundry plant layout method, classified in class 164, subclass 6. This election is made with traverse, and Applicant hereby reserves the right to file a divisional application in connection with unelected claims 4-6, drawn to a foundry plant, classified in class 164, subclass 159.

With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of all claims 1-6 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the search and the examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803, in which it is stated that "if

the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Should the Examiner require or request anything further from Applicant prior to examination, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below. Otherwise, Applicant requests early and favorable examination on the merits.



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Dated: June 23, 2005

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